

Elder, Thomas Lindsay  
(Elder Cain + Curio Co.)

1907-1912

Thomas L. Elder,  
32 E. 23d St., New York City.

Please execute the following bids at your sale

of Oct 14

The bids are so much for each Lot.

Yours truly,

Howland Wood

LOT	BID	<u>Sold</u> <u>LOT</u>	BID	LOT	BID
52	.65	90			
53	.65	90			
125	.75	100			
391	1.10	175			
411	80	20			
428	55	80			
570	2.55	3.50			
581	1.30	2.50			
582	1.80	2.00			
583	1.45	1.50			
584	1.80	2.20			
596	1.55	1.20			
597	1.55	1.20			
598	1.55	1.20			

looked over here  
lots when at cedar  
and they are worth  
over one and  
and not much

## “INDEPENDENT OF NUMISMATIC COMMERCIALISM?”

—o—o—

That a man has not the right to speak for an A. N. A. presidential candidate whom he regards to be the fittest person for the office, is the impression intended to be conveyed by a circular letter, bearing the signatures of at least **three coin dealers**, and addressed to one who has in the past **bought and sold** many coins. Here is a paragraph:—

“Our surprise is not only that you have an opponent, but that he is espoused by a dealer. The best interests of the A. N. A. can only be served by its President being independent of all numismatic commercialism.”

These persons may themselves have clear consciences on the point of their non-commercial numismatic instincts, but others who have received the circular matter, fixed price catalogues and auction catalogues, will draw their own conclusions, and condemn such inconsistencies.

Don’t be misled in this campaign, but vote for the man unpledged to dealers, speculators or cataloguers. His name is Frank C. Higgins.

THOMAS L. ELDER.

New York, June 22, '09.

New York, July 29, 1909.

To the Members of the A. N. A.

Gentlemen:

I wish to denounce as a deliberate LIE a statement of FARRAN ZERBE, P. O. Box 876, PHILADELPHIA, in a circular dated July 14th, last, that I referred in my recent sale catalogue to the "A. N. A. PIKERS." The catalogue description read "LOUISI. A. N. A. PIKER'S EXPOSITION," the word PIKER'S being in the singular, and could in nowise refer to a body of men.

I have always respected the members of the A. N. A., in fact I respect anybody who tells the truth and minds his own business, and this tricky attempt to injure me will fall flat.

As I am revising my mailing list for fall and winter sale catalogues, kindly send me your name and address, if you desire them.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS L. ELDER.

## ALL ABOUT THOSE "HEE HAW" TOKENS.

"Farran Zerbe, P. O. Box 876, Philadelphia," has just issued a circular to the members of the American Numismatic Association, which is an absolute masterpiece of mendacity and distortion of fact. While the animus is mainly directed against Mr. F. C. Higgins, with whose "mighty fine disposition" Mr. Zerbe now seems embroiled, he introduces me as one of the "*dramatis personæ*" of his elaborate falsification, and tries to so distort the descriptive matter of lots 508 to 515, inclusive, in my sale of Friday, July 9th, last, as to make it appear that the tokens therein presented constitute an insulting reference to the BODY of the A. N. A. I here give the quotations in full and request particular attention to the grammatical significance of the apostrophes and other punctuations, which take these references entirely out of any plural significance.

508 Obverse, within a circle, a mountain peak upon which is a braying, kicking, Zebra-striped jack-ass; in the left field: IN ME I TRUST; in the right field, 1909; on base of the peak A. N. ASS<sup>o</sup>. In exerg. THE SUMMIT OF IMPUDENCE; legend surrounding, \* PIKER'S. PEAK. GOLD \*. Guaranteed Twenty-Four Carats Punk. Reverse, a Zebra-striped, braying donkey, head to left. In the field, above, CON. NOT COIN; in exerg., 1909; legend \* STUNG STATES OF AMERICA \* I Get ONE DOLLAR. Edge plain.

515 Obverse, Sprig with a Lemon and two leaves, one on each side, each inscribed L P E; above this, the motto, NIHIL FACIENDO; surrounding legend: \* LOUISI.A.N.A PIKER'S \* EXPOSITION \* Money Talks. \* Rev. \* PENNSYLVANIA. GOLD \*. ½ NERVE. OTHER. HALF BRASS.

While we do not intend to interpret the intention of the gifted author, whoever he may be, of these little numismatic jokes, I am sorry to hear Mr. Zerbe say "I am SATIRED as a Zebra-striped jack-ass." We can only quote from "Pinafore":

"For he, himself, hath said it,  
And 'tis greatly to his credit."

Passing over a very bad demonstration of distant acquaintance with Noah Webster implied by the presidential gentleman's language, we think he must have meant "satirized." There are also other warm grammatical expressions in this circular, which I pass over, knowing that a brain overcharged with numismatics (?) may be pardoned in not having room for good grammar.

I cannot imagine how Mr. Zerbe ever got the idea that these tokens were directed at him. Was it by comparing the Neapolitan song-bird on the obverse of one of them with his own classic lineaments before a looking glass? or was it some little admonition of conscience at chance minor suggestions embodied in them of those famous **Exposition Takeins** made of metal "mined in the brass mines of Louisiana and Oregon," and which are not now regarded as even "semi-official?" We have all heard the expression, "It's a good thing, pass it along." As President of the Association, Mr. Zerbe has doubtless felt it incumbent upon himself to pass along the great numismatic discovery that he had been "SATIRED", to the Association, and cause it to participate in his gush of gratitude. I do not believe, however,—although this is only a private opinion—that the pieces in question bear the slightest allusion to any considerable body of men, and I certainly assure every member of the A. N. A. who may read this that in spite of Mr. Zerbe's earnest desire to pass me to the "In-Bad Club" that these tokens DO NOT "SATIRE" the American Numismatic Association.

## FRANK C. HIGGINS FOR PRESIDENT OF THE A. N. A.

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A Committee of members of the New York Numismatic Club, at a meeting held recently in New York, nominated for President of the American Numismatic Association, for the coming year, Mr. Frank C. Higgins, President of the New York Numismatic Club. Your proxies are respectfully asked for Mr. Higgins. Here are a few of the reasons why he should be elected:—

For years he has been well known in both Europe and America as a numismatic writer and collector.

He is a thorough numismatist, understands all classes of coins, both ancient and modern, and has an intimate knowledge of their historic, artistic, genealogic and heraldic significance.

He has been a professional journalist for thirty years, and has written much and interestingly of coins and collectors.

He is unusually accomplished in speaking four languages and of having some understanding of that many more.

He wishes to derive no financial gain from the office; he is not a large buyer, and does not sell coins. His only ambition is to serve the American Numismatic Association and its members. He is a man of ideas, imagination, originality, diplomacy, accomplishments, deeds,—just the man for the office of president of a great national society.

You will make no mistake by giving him your ballot at the Montreal Convention in August.

THOMAS L. ELDER.

504 Another with similar obverse. Rev. "Free silver, Government ownership of railroads, Guarantee of bank deposits, Anti-imperialism, and others. W. J. B." Only 10 struck.

505 Same obverse. Rev. "If this piece is worth 40 Cents, what would be the purchasing value of Bryan's." Only 10 struck.

506 Same obverse. Rev. "The exponent of the Free Silver idea met his Third Waterloo on this date." Only 10 struck.

507 Sams obv. Rev. "Thrice defeated, what will the "Great Commoner" do now?"

### SATIRICAL "SOUVENIR COINS" ON PRIVATE GOLD ISSUES AND OTHER TIMELY NUMISMATIC TOPICS.

Must be seen to be appreciated. The dies for this and succeeding lot have been destroyed.

508 Obverse, within a circle, a mountain peak upon which is a braying, kicking, Zebra-striped jack-ass; in the left field: IN ME I TRUST; in the right field, 1909; on base of the peak A. N. ASS?. In exerg. THE SUMMIT OF IMPUDENCE; legend surrounding, ★ PIKER'S. PEAK. GOLD ★. Guaranteed Twenty-Four Carats Punk. Reverse, a Zebra-striped, braying donkey, head to left. In the field, above, CON. NOT COIN; in exerg., 1909; legend ★ STUNG STATES OF AMERICA ★ I Get ONE DOLLAR. Edge plain. Struck in fourteen carat gold. Only two struck, and the other is not for sale.

509 Same as last, but struck in silver. Only 25 pieces struck.

510 The same, but struck in German silver. Only 10 struck.

511 The same, but struck in white metal. Only ten struck.

512 The same, but struck in brass, gilded. One hundred struck.

513 The same, but struck in copper. Twenty-five struck.

514 The same, but struck in aluminum. Two hundred struck.

515 Obverse, Sprig with a Lemon and two leaves, one on each side, each inscribed L P E; above this, the motto, NIHIL FACIENDO; surrounding legend: ★ LOUISI.A.N.A PIKER'S ★ EXPOSITION ★ Money Talks. ★ Rev. ★ PENNSYLVANIA. GOLD ★.  $\frac{1}{2}$  NERVE. OTHER. HALF. BRASS. Edge plain. Struck in fourteen carat gold. Only two struck and the other set not for sale.

516 The same, but struck in silver. Twenty-five pieces struck.

517 The same, but struck in German silver. Ten struck.

518 The same, but struck in white metal. Ten struck.

519 The same, but struck in brass, gilded. One hundred struck.

520 The same, but struck in copper. Twenty-five struck.

521 The same, but struck in aluminum. Two hundred struck.

### UNITED STATES GOLD, ETC.

522 HALF EAGLES. 1796. Struck over 1795. Five stars before bust, 10 behind it. Rev. small eagle standing on branch. Fine to very fine. Rare and in great demand.

523 1797. Perfect date. Five stars before bust, 10 behind it. About fine. Excessively rare. Half eagles of 1797 offered in the last five years sold for \$160, \$160, \$160 and \$250 each.

524 1800. Rev. Heraldic eagle. Fine.

525 THREE DOLLARS. 1854. Very fine.

526 1857. Very good.

527 1863. Fine. Rare.

528 1868. Fine. Rare.

529 1870. Very fine. Rare.

530 1874. Very fine.

531 1889. Last year. Ex. Fine to Unc.

532 PRIVATE GOLD. 1854. \$20. Kellogg & Co. Slight scratches as usual, but a very fine specimen.

533 U. S. SILVER, etc. 1798. Dollar. Very good.

534 1851. Half Dollar. Fine. Rare.

535 1893. Isabella quarter dollar. Proof. Rare.

536 1893. Another as last, proof. Rare.

537 1893. Another, as last, proof. Rare.

my dear Elder

I have just read  
your highly decent <sup>a recent publication</sup>  
article in ~~Webb's monthly~~  
in praise of our old pal  
and worthy friend. I have  
waded through his pedigree  
and long list of illustrious ancestors  
and the question forces itself  
on my mind whether if you  
you are not recommending  
our good comrade <sup>more</sup> for  
breeding purposes than  
for his executive ability at  
running the A.N.A. Knowing  
our friend as I do I think he  
is well qualified. If you  
meant to emphasize the  
former you omitted to state  
the <sup>the</sup> stud for



THOMAS L. ELDER  
Importer of Rare Coins  
and Precious Stones  
Member of the American Numismatic Society  
Fellow of Royal Numismatic Society, London  
Member, British Numismatic Society, London  
THIRTY-TWO EAST TWENTY-THIRD STREET  
Telephone 5899 Gramercy NEW YORK

December 26, 1910.

Dear Wood.

I am enclosing you for your file a copy of the Elder Magazine which owing to the usual progressiveness of Mr. Higgins is to be suppressed. Higgins wisely enough sent down to Stowell the minutes of the N. Y. N. Club meeting and the writeup for Proskey without showing them to me, after having faithfully promised me he would show me everything that went into the magazine before it was printed; he was careful to turn over to me the continued articles only. This morning I get advanced copies and find that he has given a big writeup for the Proskey Coin establishment, with name and address.

I have attended every meeting of the NY.N.C. I think since its foundation, and I have never before requested that a motion I had made be printed in the minutes; but I made an important motion at the meeting recently and suggested the appointment of the second vice president. It was promptly acted upon and Wilson was elected- I moved for Mitchelson. Afterwards I asked Higgins if he had mentioned me in the minutes as having made the motion, and he said "Yes." Today I find he has carefully cut out that part of it; I see a reason now why he did not first submit the minutes to me. It is the usual Higgins way of doing which raises more trouble than a bag of monkeys, and I telegraphed the printer, but too late I guess to hold type together. Higgins is a costly helper in this case. He is always doing such things. He tried to load off the blame onto the printer. I gave him the devil and swore some good round oaths over the phone. Now I am not wanting to get my name into print in connection with the N.Y. Numismatic Club, but I think I deserved it this time, and he tried to deprive me of it; everything important in that organization

mst be done by him. I supposse Spink & Son had a special representative at Whitehead & Hoags when that medal was presented!

I am very busy with vaious sales.

Merry Xmas from

Yours truly,

*Jas. L. Elder.*

I see nothing but a job put up on me over these minutes. He has a writeup mentioning Raymonds sale, also Zerbes election. Now I am not priñg anything against Zerbe, but I wont print anything for him either; and I'm not moticing the sales of my competitors. Higgins can put whatever he pleases into other peoples magazines but not into mine.



THOMAS L. ELDER  
Importer of Rare Coins  
and Precious Stones  
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THIRTY-TWO EAST TWENTY-THIRD STREET  
Telephone 5899 Gramercy NEW YORK

Send two more porcelain tokens.

Feb. 13, 1912.

Dear Wood.

I enclose aluminum of two tokens. Do you want a set of them for cost, they will be, silver \$1 each, only 5 struck.

About five other metals for 15c apiece.

They should be added to the Bryan series.

Only 5 of each metal struck except aluminum, (50 of those)

This set cost me \$32. I wont more than get half out of it.

Is it 50c I owe you?

I got \$7.50 for a complete set here.

I dont intend to issue any more of them, but will issue a dollar piece in 1912 during the election. in Fall.

There was a write up on this set in NY Times last Sunday, nearly a column.

Hig was in today. He is as grouchy and complaining as ever. He has bugs.

Yours, etc.

We had a fine meeting of NY NC, about 15 with several new ones. Riley, you know him, was there and is to join.